bond taken from the person who drew money at the previous chitty before the next chitty was drawn. Some rules on these lines were, the member thought, necessary to safeguard the interests of subscribers.

Reply.—It is open to persons joining chitties to form themselves into joint-stock companies. There are provisions already in the Penal Code for punishing wager transactions. Courts of justice may be left to safeguard other equitable rights. If a number of persons go to a particular man and choose to bind themselves by his transactions, it is open to them to insist on his satisfying them of his solvency and capacity for business. It is purely a private transaction which Government cannot and need not regulate. Each association or body of persons may be left to frame their own rules in this matter.

193. Abolition of cattle-pound fees and double fees for cattle straying along channel banks.

Mr. P. Nellayandar Pillai (*Agastisvaram*) represented that at present the fees levied on cattle-pounds were exorbitant and it would be desirable to abolish them altogether. Further, when stray cattle were found on the banks of channels, the practice was to realize double fees and it would be better to dispense with these also.

Reply.—Fees as prescribed in section 10 of the Cattle Trespass Regulation (I of 1056) are now levied. Double fees are realised under the Regulation for animals straying in reserved forests only and not those straying on the banks of channels. The question of abolishing cattle pounds cannot be thought of, as it is a necessary institution for fostering agriculture; and it is plain that if they are to be maintained, fees will also have to be levied from the owners of cattle brought to the pounds.

194. Planting of avenue trees.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (*Nominated*) said that avenue trees used to be planted in former times by both Government and the people, but latterly such wayside facilities for travellers had come to be neglected. Avenue trees were being planted systematically in British India also and he could not see why the charitable and sympathetic Government of Travancore should not pay more attention to this matter. He therefore suggested that an expert might be appointed for planting fruit trees on the sides of public roads.

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Reply.—This is being attended to even now. The provertikars whose work has been considerably lightened by the abolition of payment in kind and the reduction in the number of kist instalments will be asked to look after the planting of avenue trees also.

195. Desirability of removing the restrictions on elephant shooting.

Mr. H. D. Deane on behalf of Mr. H. M. Knight (Cardamom Planters' Association) said that elephants had of late become too numerous in the Cardamom Hills and the High Ranges, especially on the Periyar-Kumili road and near Mundakayam, and were causing several deaths and considerable damage to property. The member said he was not speaking from a sportsman's standpoint when he urged that the present restriction on the shooting of elephants might be removed in the interests of the people living in those tracts.

Reply.—Elephants are useful animals and valuable assets to the State. As such, their indiscriminate destruction cannot be permitted. Sometimes, even rewards are offered by Government for the shooting of rogue elephants. In regard to the localities specified, the attention of the Conservator will be drawn.

196. Geological and mineralogical survey of the State.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, B.A., B.L., (T. I. C., Alleppey) said that it was highly necessary to organize a department for the geological and mineralogical survey of the State as early as practicable.

Reply.—This matter has been engaging the attention of Government. Two students who had been sent out for training in the Royal College of Science, London, have come back successful and are now receiving practical instruction in the Government of India Geological Department. When they return the subject will be taken in hand.

197. Protracted delay on the part of local officers in questions regarding the acquisition of lands by European bishops and clergymen in their names for the use of diocesan institutions.

This subject which stood in the name of *Mr. G. H. Gunther, (Catholic Indian Association, Trivandrum)* was withdrawn by him.

198. Recognition of promissory notes for paddy or cocoanuts as valid documents.

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